Government of West Bengal to consider maintaining a spread of 10% per cent rate of import duty on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Paraxylene during the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

New plastic currency notes

786. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government is going to introduce new currency in the shape of plastic money in the denomination of Rs.10/- each based on plastic banknote technology very soon; and

(b) if so, by when the new plastic currency is expected to come into circulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) the Reserve Bank of India has informed that they are at present evaluating various options for increasing the life of banknotes, including printing of banknotes on polymer substrate in Rs.10/- denomination. No time frame has as yet been set for this purpose.

Requirement of PAN number in share transactions

†787. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent irregularities in the stock exchange, PAN number has been made compulsory by Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in share transactions;

(b) the number of D-Mat accounts of two major security depositories National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL), and Central Depository Services Ltd. (CDSL) which have been frozen so far in absence of PAN number; and

(c) whether these frozen accounts would again be allowed to be operationalized on presenting PAN number by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) In order to address the concerns arising out of the opening up of multiple demat accounts, SEBI had made Permanent Account Number (PAN) mandatory for opening and operating demat accounts. Subsequently, it has made PAN mandatory for all participants transacting in the securities markets as an investor friendly measure and in the interest of enforcement action. However, an investor participating only in micropension schemes has been exempted from this requirement.

(b) A total of 2,221,660 demat accounts remain frozen as on November 15, 2007.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Amount of money sanctioned by NABARD for Andhra Pradesh

788. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had sanctioned crores of rupees for Andhra Pradesh to take up various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount released and utilized so far for each project during the last three years; and

(c) the present status of each project?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. NABARD has so far sanctioned Rs. 8417.75 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Funds (RIDF) to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementing 19653 infrastructure projects under various sectors. Project/sector-wise details of number of projects sanctioned, amount sanctioned, cumulative disbursement under all the tranches of RIDF is given in the statement.

Statement

Status of RIDF Loans (since inception till date) sanctioned by NABARD to the State of Andhra Pradesh

(inclusive of current year 2007-08).

Sector	Sanctions		Cumulative amount Disbursed till date (Rs. lakhs)	Disbursement during the last 3 years (2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07) (Rs. lakhs)	No. of Projects Completed	No. of incomplete Project
	No. of Projects	RIDF Loans (Rs. lakhs)				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Animal Vaccine And Disgonostic Units	6	19.12	768.35	768.35	0	6
Bio-diesel Plantations	233	7028.15	3203.63	2644.30	0	233
Bridge Projects	413	49624.76	36118.24	10888.72	278	135
Comprehensive Land Development Prog.	856	23617.10	6526.28	5575.37	0	856
Drainage Projects	1	2400.51	2188.36	14073.11	0	1
Drip & Micro Irrigation	44	44179.00	21773.38	1200.84	22	22
High School	1176	23966.73	7574.72	4349.21	0	1176
Joint Forest Management Projects	2043	9645.39	8830.57	1128.03	2033	10
Junior College	388	3610.27	1309.19	638.35	0	388
Lift Irrigations Projects	317	70963.56	36894.19	19861.46	177	140
Major Irrigation Projects	16	18164.20	15965.38	158.06	12	4
Medium Irrigation Projects	39	58667.19	52610.09	7053.06	31	8
Mini Hydel Power Projects	7	2536.92	178.07	0	0	7
Minor Irrigation Projects	2019	71836.07	44925.36	19980.86	1771	248
Primary Health Centres	177	7202.28	516.56	864.72	0	177
Road Projects	3952	285881.82	191711.20	83663.69	2053	1899
Rural Drinking Water Supply Projects	2341	70939.95	45567.90	24756.17	675	1666

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SMC Projects in Community Lands	847	19029.90	12448.79	6922.91	9	838
SMC Projects in Forest Lands	3574	59178.25	46192.32	11227.98	2891	683
Watershed Development Projects in Community Lands	1204	12284.53	9632.65	642.13	1199	5
TOTAL:	**19653**	**841775.70**	**544935.23**	**216397.32**	**11151**	**8502**

Effect of hardening of rupee on exports

789. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hardening of rupee on export is impacting the exports;

(b) if so, whether any measures are in the offing to moderate the situation and promote exports with greater vigour;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) During April-September 2007, the total values of exports have registered a growth rate of 18.5 per cent in dollar terms compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Export performance depends on many factors like world economic growth, growth in world trade, sector specific factors, etc., besides appreciation of Indian Rupee. As there was widespread concern on possible lagged adverse impact of rupee appreciation on export growth, Government has announced relief packages to exporters comprising of enhanced Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) rates, reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium, release of Rs. 600 crore for clearing all arrears of terminal excise duties and Central Sales tax reimbursement, enhancement of duty drawback rates, reduction in interest rates on pre and post shipment credit, etc.

Development of Andhra Bank as a Micro-Financing Bank

790. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations to recognize and give importance to the birth place of Late Pattabhi Sitaramayya, the former congress president and founder of Andhra Bank;

(b) whether it is a fact that demands are pending with Andhra Bank;

(c) the steps proposed by Government and Andhra Bank to give importance to rural development and micro-finance in that area of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of demands to develop Andhra Bank as a leading Micro-Financing Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Andhra Bank has taken a decision to develop Gundugolanu village, the birth place of Dr. Pattabhi Sitharamayya - founder of the Bank, with credit and